

Potential Issue Categories

There are numerous sub-issues within each category

NOTES

- 1) Terrestrial Plants and Animals and Their Associated Habitats.** How should the national forests maintain or restore a diverse mix of terrestrial plant and animal habitat conditions, while meeting public demands for a variety of wildlife values and uses? Diversity includes a range of successional stages as well as a range in vertical structural components within an area.
- 2) Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive/Locally Rare Species.** What levels of management are needed to protect and recover the populations of federally listed threatened, endangered and proposed species? What level of management is needed for Forest Service sensitive and locally rare species?
- 3) Special Areas and Rare Communities.** What special areas should be designated, and how should they be managed? How should rare communities be managed?
- 4) Fire Management.** How will fire be used in land management activities such as wildlife habitat management, fuels management, silviculture, and ecosystem restoration and maintenance? What measures should be taken to minimize air quality impacts from prescribed fire?
- 5) Non-Native Invasive Species and Forest Health.** What conditions are needed to maintain or enhance ecosystem resiliency to threats from invasive insects, plants and animals?
- 6) Climate Change.** How can the Forest Plan address the potential threats from climate change?
- 7) Old Growth.** How should old growth be managed?
- 8) Drinking Water.** How we manage watersheds that provide public drinking water?
- 9) Lands.** What priorities should be considered in land acquisition, deposition and exchange opportunities?

10) Riparian Area Management, Water Quality and Aquatic Habitats. What are the desired riparian ecosystem conditions and how will they be identified, maintained and/or restored? What management direction is needed to help ensure that the hydrologic conditions needed for the beneficial uses of water yielded by and flowing through National Forest System lands are attained? What management is needed for the maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of aquatic habitats?

11) Roadless Areas and Wilderness Management. Should any of the inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas be recommended for wilderness designation? For those areas not recommended for wilderness, how should they be managed? How should the patterns and intensity of use, fire, and insects and disease be managed in the existing wilderness areas? How to balance the desires for permanent protection and the desires for future flexibility to be able to respond to changes in ecological conditions and social/economic conditions?

12) Minerals. How will the mineral resources of the national forest be managed considering public demand for a wide variety of minerals? What areas will be made available for the exploration and development of federal leasable minerals and mineral materials?

13) Aesthetics/Scenery Management. What are the appropriate landscape character goals? What should be the scenic integrity objectives? Should we recommend any areas for a National Scenic Area designation?

14) Access and Road Management. How do we balance the rights of citizens to access their national forest with our responsibilities to protect and manage the soil and water resources, wildlife populations and habitat, aesthetics, forest health, and desired vegetative conditions?

15) Special Uses. How should the Forest Plan address special uses of the national forest? In particular, wind energy development?

16) Air Quality. What can be done to minimize the effects of management activities on air quality?

17) Wood Products. What are the appropriate objectives for timber management? Where should removal of wood products occur, given that this production is part of a set of multiple use objectives? What should be the level of outputs of wood products?

18) Recreation Opportunities/Experiences. How should the increased demand for recreational opportunities and experiences be addressed while protecting forest resources? This includes considering a full range of opportunities for developed and dispersed recreation activities (such as camping, picnicking, hunting and fishing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle/4WD driving, and all-terrain vehicle driving).

19) Soil Resource. What can be done to minimize the effects of management activities on soil erosion and soil productivity? What can we do to mitigate potential effects on soil nutrient depletion and soil acidification related to acid deposition?

20) The Forest's Effect on Local Communities & People's Effect on the Forest. What is the role of the forest in supporting local communities? How do we manage for ecosystem services, which are goods and services that we derive from the forest (some are market-based and some are not, such as air and water purification, flood and climate regulation, biodiversity, and scenic landscapes). How does our management affect adjacent landowners (such as nonnative invasive species)? How will the effects of an increasing population and increasing development along the forest's border influence management direction?

Additional Issues or Comments